

Nez Perce National Forest Biological Assessment/Evaluation

Summary of Effects

For Threatened and Sensitive Plant Species

Project Name: Max #2 Exploration Placer Exploration

The Biological Evaluation process (FSM 2672.43) is intended to conduct and document activities necessary to ensure proposed management actions will not jeopardize the continued existence or cause adverse modification of habitat for species that are listed or proposed to be listed as Endangered or Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and species listed as Sensitive by the U.S. Forest Service, Region 1. Direction in FSM 2670.5 states, “Biological Evaluation, A documented Forest Service review of Forest Service programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed or sensitive species.”

Threatened and endangered species included in this analysis are consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list dated December 13, 2010. The only federally listed species known or suspected to occur on the Nez Perce National Forest are Spalding’s catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) and MacFarlane’s four-o’clock (*Mirabilis macfarlanei*); both limited to parts of the Salmon River basin.

This biological evaluation is also prepared to determine the project’s effects on thirty sensitive plant species that occur or are expected to occur on the Nez Perce National Forest. The determinations are summarized in the table below. Rational for determinations are provided following the table.

Species Determinations

Plant Species	Cat.*	Species Presence	Habitat Presence	Species Potentially Affected?	Habitat Potentially Affected?	Determination**
MacFarlane's four-o'clock <i>Mirabilis macfarlanei</i>	T	No	No	No	No	NE
Spalding's catchfly <i>Silene Spaldingii</i>	T	No	No	No	No	NE
Payson's milkvetch <i>Astragalus paysonii</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Deerfern <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Lance-leaf moonwort <i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i> var. <i>lanceolatum</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Linear-leaf moonwort <i>Botrychium linear</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Mingan moonwort <i>Botrychium minganense</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Northern moonwort <i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Least moonwort	S	No	No	No	No	NI

Plant Species	Cat.*	Species Presence	Habitat Presence	Species Potentially Affected?	Habitat Potentially Affected?	Determination**
Botrychium simplex						
Leafless bug-on-a stick <i>Buxbaumia aphylla</i> (moss)	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Green bug-on-a-stick <i>Buxbaumia viridis</i> (moss)	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Broadfruit mariposa <i>Calochortus nitidus</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Constance's bittercress <i>Cardamine constancei</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Buxbaum's sedge <i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Many headed sedge <i>Carex sychnocephala</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Pacific dogwood <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Clustered ladyslipper <i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Dasynotus <i>Dasynotus daubenmirei</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Idaho douglasia <i>Douglasia idahoensis</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Giant helleborine <i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Puzzling halimolobos <i>Halimolobos perplexa</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Light hookeria <i>Hookeria lucens</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Spacious monkeyflower <i>Mimulus ampliatus</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Thin sepal monkeyflower <i>Mimulus hymenophyllus</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Gold-back fern <i>Pentagramma triangularis</i> spp. <i>triangularis</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Naked-stem rhizomnium <i>Rhizomnium nudum</i> (moss)	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Mendocino sphagnum <i>Sphagnum mendocinum</i> (moss)	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Evergreen kittentail <i>Synthyris platycarpa</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Short style toefieldia <i>Triantha occidentalis</i> ssp. <i>brevistyla</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Douglas clover <i>Trifolium douglasii</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI
Plumed clover	S	No	No	No	No	NI

Plant Species	Cat.*	Species Presence	Habitat Presence	Species Potentially Affected?	Habitat Potentially Affected?	Determination**
<i>Trifolium plumosum</i> var. <i>amplifolium</i>						
Idaho barren strawberry <i>Waldsteinia idahoensis</i>	S	No	No	No	No	NI

*Category: **T** = Threatened; **E** = Endangered; **P** = Proposed; **S** = Sensitive

****Federally listed (Threatened) Species Determination:** **NE** = No Effect; **BE** = Beneficial Effect; **NL** = Not likely to adversely affect; **LT** = Likely to adversely affect. **Sensitive Species Determination:** **NI** = No Impact; **BI** = Beneficial Impact; **MI** = May impact individuals or habitat but not likely to cause trend toward federal listing or reduce viability for the population or species; **LI** = Likely to impact individuals or habitat with the consequence that the action may contribute towards federal listing or result in reduced viability for the population or species.

Determinations Rational

Botanists have reviewed this project, used available information on species distributions and habitat (using one or more of the following: topo maps, aerial photos, field reconnaissance, previous surveys, habitat modeling), and then assessed the potential for impacts for all federal listed and Region 1 sensitive species. If the project was determined to have **no effect** or **no impact**, this determination was based on one or more of these criteria:

- habitat for the species is not present in the project area.
- habitat for the species is present but the species does not occur in this area.
- habitat for the species is present, the species occurs or may occur in the project area, but the project would not have any direct, indirect or cumulative effects on this species.

There are no occurrences or suitable habitat for any sensitive plant species in the project area, thus there will be no effects.

BOTANIST /s/ Michael Hays DATE March 10, 2011

Weeds

FACTOR 1: *Likelihood of Undesirable Plant Species, Including Noxious Weeds Species, Spreading to Project Area:*

None _____ Low X Moderate _____ High _____

FACTOR 2: *Consequence of Undesirable Plant Establishment in Project Area*

Low _____ X Moderate _____ High _____

Total Risk Rating: Low X Moderate _____ High _____

Comments/Suggestions: Due to the relatively high and cool habitats significant weed infestations do not occur in the area. However; some invasion due to the disturbance and proximity of transportation corridors is anticipated. Cleaning of equipment and seeding of the disturbed areas will mitigate this concern.

Evaluator Signature: /s/ Michael Hays